

CANINE KIBBLE

tidbits for dog lovers

Number 2 – December 2003 – Special Hero Edition



DOG HEROES OF 2002

AWARDS

Kibbles & Bits Dog Heroes of the Year

<http://www.skippydog.com/doghero>

The Collie Tang won the first Dog Hero of the Year award in 1954. Since then the name has varied based on the dog food (originally Ken-L Ration Dog Hero of the Year) but the contest stays the same. The website has the current dog hero and runners-up plus an archive of past heroes. Don't miss the cool "timeline of heroes" at <http://www.delmontedoghero.com>. Enter a date and watch the dates stream across the timeline.

The 2002 hero, Blue, is an Australian Heeler who saved his owner from an alligator.

For a lighter look at Blue's rescue go to <http://dogsinthenews.com/issues/0107/articles/010730a.htm> and for satire to <http://www.greysquirrel.net/blue.html>

The Purina Hall of Fame

<http://www.purina.ca/halloffame/default.asp?year=2003>

Site features untrained heroic dogs, plus working dogs, and also cats. The archive goes back to 1968. 2002 winners, Indiana, Star and Queenie, saved their owners from fire; injury and hypothermia (pulled his owner off the road when she fell and broke her leg); and a bear.

Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association—Pet Hall of Fame

<http://www.riverbrookpetvet.com/petnews.htm>

The Hall of Fame categories are professional, hero, and companion. The

2002 Hero winner is Sam, a Rottweiler who lost his life saving his owner from an attacking bull. Australian Shepherd Gus won the award in the companion category for getting help for his owner who had dislocated his hip while working on a trailer.



STORIES OF HEROIC DOGS

Rescues from Fire

Dog plays hero in Kaneohe fire: The family gets out safely after its pet barks a loud warning.

Typical "warning about fire" story. A couple was woken up at night by their barking dog to find the house in flames. They managed to escape to safety. The article omits the name of the dogs, only mentions that the family escaped from the house with two Labrador Retrievers.

<http://starbulletin.com/2002/02/17/news/index2.html>

Pooch's Barking Alerted Woman To Blaze In Home

At 3 a.m, Poodle-Chihuahua mix, Chiquito, barked until his owner woke up at when a living-room lamp shorted, and sent flames raging through their double-wide trailer.

November 22, 2002, San Jose Mercury News (CA)

Hero dog alerts family to fire, dies in blaze

Very sad story from Santa Cruz. The family dog, a black lab named Bubba, wakes up his family when the house catches on fire, only to die in the blaze.

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2002/October/01/local/stories/08local.htm>

Chihuahua named hero by Red Cross

The Chihuahua, Sam I Am, broke loose while on a walk, ran to a neighbor's house and started jumping up and down barking in front of the garage. Sam's owner saw smoke coming from the garage and called the Fire Department. They quickly put out the small electrical fire in the garage. Interesting note: Sam has pierced ears and wears gold earrings.

Cox News Service, May 16, 2002

**Older Women Living Alone
Should Have a Dog:**

An alert pooch barked for help when her 81 year old owner fell and broke her leg in two places. The woman lay helpless in her apartment for almost four hours until the apartment building manager heard barking and came to help. The Albany Kennel Club awarded the heroic dog, 11 year old Australian Terrier, Little Miss Abigail Dundee, a plaque.

The Time Union, March 14, 2002

Dogs Who Get Help for Strangers

*Alert Dog With Keen Sense Of Smell Helps
Turn Potential Tragedy Into Happy Ending:
Dog Comes To Aid Of Man With Alzheimer's
Who Had Fallen While Out For Walk*

Dachshund, Sam Wolfgang Adams, was out on a walk and led his owner to a construction site where a man had fallen into the mud.

<http://www.wral.com/news/2054124/detail.html>

Hero dog Bertie takes the biscuits

While visiting his owner in the hospital, Bertie alerted her that the woman in the opposite bed had stopped breathing. Bertie started barking and would not stop. The staff checked the nearby patient and discovered that the woman was not

breathing. (Just think if the staff had simply put the dog out instead of checking!)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/2862589.stm>

Sherry Shows being a Hero Runs in Family

Cairn Terrier, Sherry heard the next door neighbor's cries and jumped the wall to find that the 80 year old man had fallen and could not get up. Sherry barked until her family arrived.

The Sentinel (Stoke) April 15, 2002

**Dogs Who Get Help From
Strangers**

Dogs Fetch Help for Owner

A Fargo, ND woman fell and broke her ankle while out walking her dogs, Nisse and Diogenes. The dogs ran off and found a man who was camping in the park. They kept pawing him, barking and running until they enticed him to follow.

Associated Press State & Local Wire, 9/18/02

Other Rescues

*Spot the Hero: Dog Saves Girl From
Drowning*

Deaf Dalmatian, Sophie, saved a 5 year old girl from drowning in the River Urr. Sophie swam out to the girl who was struggling in the water, the girl grabbed onto her and Sophie pulled her to the bank.

Scottish Daily Record & Sunday Mail Ltd., 3/22/02

Dog Saves Man from Roof Collapse

A New Hampshire man was on his porch, leaning against the railing, when his dog, a Collie named Jarrod, started pushing him down the stairs. Jarrod got the man to the stairs just as the snow covered porch roof collapsed. Jarrod is a trained service dog who helps his owner but was not trained to detect building failures.

Associated Press State & Local Wire, 1/23/03



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